

KEYS TOURISM ADVISORY #4

Fri, Aug 24, 2012

6:22 PM

*This advisory is based on information and instructions from Monroe County Emergency Management, the National Hurricane Center and Key West National Weather Service Office
Compiled and transmitted by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council*

Officials: No Visitor Evacuation for Isaac at This Time Visitors, Residents Must Remain Indoors During Storm

STORM NAME Isaac	CATEGORY /MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS Tropical Storm/65 mph
CENTER'S CURRENT LATITUDE/LONGITUDE 17.2 71.9	
CURRENT DISTANCE FROM FLORIDA KEYS 800 miles SE of Key West	FORWARD DIRECTION, SPEED NW at 16 mph
STORM WARNING STATUS FOR KEYS AT TIME OF ADVISORY Tropical Storm Watch... Tropical storm conditions possible within 36 hours	
EVACUATION STATUS FOR KEYS VISITORS AT TIME OF ADVISORY No visitor evacuation orders at this time	
EVACUATION STATUS FOR KEYS RESIDENTS AT TIME OF ADVISORY No resident evacuation orders at this time	



National Hurricane Center Graphic

SYNOPSIS

Forecast Friday by the National Hurricane Center that Tropical Storm Isaac should remain a tropical storm as it passes through the Florida Keys, county officials have decided not to issue a visitor evacuation.

Normal protocol for visitor evacuations is a significant probability a hurricane will impact the area. But the 5 p.m. Isaac forecast, issued by the NHC, shows a tropical storm watch for the region. That watch is likely to evolve into a tropical storm warning Saturday morning, officials said. Tropical storm-force winds are expected in the Keys Sunday morning, said Andy Devanas of the Key West National Weather Service.

The absence of a visitor evacuation should not be interpreted by visitors as an "all-clear," stressed Irene Toner, Monroe County Emergency Management Director.

"During the storm, visitors and residents must remain indoors," Toner said. "They should not be outside, on roadways, beaches and certainly not on, or in the water, until the storm is well away from the Keys."

Visitors residing in boats and in campgrounds in tents and recreational vehicles should relocate to safe buildings. State and county parks are to close when a tropical storm warning is issued.

"We understand the hardship caused by a visitor evacuation, especially for foreign guests," she said. "There are plenty of hotels in the Keys built to withstand severe storms, so visitors should be safe, as long as they remain indoors."

Jodi Weinhofer, president of the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West, said that despite the lack of the visitor evacuation, she was confident the Keys hospitality industry would not penalize travelers who desired to end their stay early or wanted to cancel or postpone their trips because of Isaac.

Officials encouraged travelers with near-term plans to visit the Keys are to postpone trips until weather conditions improve, which is anticipated for Tuesday. Commercial flight cancellations are expected for Key West International Airport beginning Saturday night, at least through Sunday, said Peter Horton, director of Monroe County airports.

INFRASTRUCTURE

An "X" indicates

open and/or operating
normally in most or all
regions at this time.

☒ U.S. Highway 1

☒ Electricity

☒ Water

☒ Marathon Airport

☒ Key West Airport

☒ Key West Port

☒ County Parks

☒ State Parks

☒ Hospitals

FUTURE TRAVEL TO KEYS?

It is recommended to delay
plans to travel to the Keys
during the next few days.

ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES

facebook.com/floridakeysandkeywest / twitter.com/thefloridakeys

Monroe County Emergency Information: (800) 955-5504

Monroe County Situation Report: www.monroecounty-fl.gov

National Hurricane Center Web site: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Monroe County Sheriff's Office: www.keyssso.net

County Public Access Television: Channel 76 on cable

For latest Keys travel status

www.fl-keys.com

TDC Multilingual Visitor Help: (800) 771-KEYS

Greyhound Keys Shuttle: (800) 410-KEYS

Key West Weather: www.weather.gov/keywest

Florida Emergency and Hotel information:

1-800-342.3557 • FloridaEvacuates.com